

**BOROUGH OF DUMONT
BERGEN COUNTY, N.J.
EMERGENCY MEETING MINUTES
MAY 19, 2010
6:00 PM**

The meeting was called to order by Council President Stylianou
Flag Salute; Silent Prayer

Sunshine Law: The notice requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey have been satisfied. Notice of this emergency meeting was provided by posting written notice on the official bulletin board, the Borough website and sending notice to *The Record* and the *Press Journal* May 19, 2010

Roll Call:

Council members Carrick, Caspare, Freeman, Manna, Stylianou, Zamechansky-present
Mayor McHale arrived at 6:20 PM

Motion to Accept Agenda as presented: Councilman Carrick
Second: Councilman Freeman

Council President Stylianou explained that this meeting had to be called because Council members Caspare and Manna have to recuse themselves from voting on the School Tax Levy Resolution and Council members Carrick and Zamechansky were unable to attend last night's meeting. Therefore, there were not enough votes to adopt the resolution. The resolution has to be voted upon by midnight tonight.

General Business

Resolution #10-159 Approval of Emergency Meeting notwithstanding the Failure to
Provide Adequate Notice

Motion: Councilman Carrick

Second: Councilman Manna

Motion to open to the public: Councilwoman Zamechansky

Second: Councilman Carrick

All in favor.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Freeman

All in favor.

Roll call vote: Carrick, Caspare, Freeman, Manna, Stylianou, Zamechansky-yes

Borough Attorney Paster explained the emergency was due to the fact that there was not a quorum last night and the budget levy has to be voted on by this evening.

Council members Caspare and Manna were excused during discussion and vote of the following resolution.

Resolution #10-160 Certification of School Tax Levy-\$1,000,000

Motion to adopt: Councilman Carrick

Second: Councilman Freeman

Councilman Carrick apologized for not being able to attend last night's meeting. He said he was happy with the give-backs the teachers and custodians gave. He was disappointed with the administrators. He acknowledged the hard work and knowledge Councilman Freeman brought to the school negotiations.

Councilwoman Zamechansky stated that since the school budget was defeated by 400 votes it was the responsibility of the Council to review the school budget for the purpose of making cuts. It was her position to not cut any more programs or cuts which would affect jobs. Assurances were given by the Board of Education that any and all give-backs and retirements will result in restoration of programs. The members of the committee-Councilman Carrick, Councilwoman Zamechansky and Chairman Freeman wrote a letter to the Board of Ed to that effect and signed it.

Council President Stylianou read the following letter, dated May 18, 2010, addressed to the Dumont Board of Education into the record:

"Dear Board Members:

Based upon our conversation last night, there will be approximately \$63,500 in savings available to the Board of Education. This letter shall confirm that the \$63,500 will be used to reinstate programs previously cut. Retirements which occur after today and before the beginning of this upcoming school year will result in additional savings. As per our discussion last evening, this shall further confirm that the use of any savings generated from retirements will be used to reinstate programs previously cut. Please call me immediately if the above does not accurately summarize the agreed-upon understanding". It is signed by Council members Freeman, Carrick and Zamechansky.

Councilman Freeman commented that the teachers stepping up to the plate was extremely helpful in ultimately restoring programs.

Council President Stylianou thanked Councilman Freeman for doing an excellent job, along with council members Carrick and Zamechansky and Mr. Perkins. It is not easy trying to balance the desires of the taxpayers and those who defeated the budget by over 400 votes and the very vocal minority who, like himself, were very concerned about gutting the school programs. The teachers came forward and provide approximately 80% of tax savings. The custodians also made concessions. He expressed his disappointment in the school administrators, except for one, who should have made an effort to contribute to saving some of the programs that were cut.

Motion to open to the public: Councilman Carrick

Second: Councilman Freeman

All in favor.

Mayor McHale arrived at 6:20 PM

1. Marty Caspare-57 Franklin Street-asked if the agreement was ratified by the teachers yet.
2. Nancy Ziemba-21 Patton Place-commented that the administrators seem to be taking a lot of heat. She asked when their contract would end and when they would begin negotiations. She said that the schools are losing two vice-principals and a guidance counselor who retired and is not being replaced.
3. Irwin Buchheister-39 Cedar Road-asked if people would have to wait until next year to put pressure on the Board of Education regarding the administrators' contract.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Carrick

Second: Councilman Freeman

All in favor.

Councilman Stylianou stated that the budget that was put before the public and defeated essentially was not cut. The current figure was reached due to concessions on the part of the teachers, the custodians and retirements. Nothing additional had to be cut. He said he feels it is not good to take away afterschool programs for teens. He said it is important for them to have something to do so they are not roaming the streets aimlessly.

Motion to adjourn: Councilman Carrick

Second: Councilman Stylianou

All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Susan Connelly, RMC

Borough Clerk